

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Dennis Carroll

Art Unit: 2162

Serial No.: 10/696,404

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Examiner: Colan, Giovanna B,

Title: **ALGORITHM FOR SORTING BIT SEQUENCES IN LINEAR COMPLEXITY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESTRICTION ELECTION WITH AMENDMENT**

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 6, 2006, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group II: drawn to manipulating data structure (Claims 35-86). This election is made with traverse, and Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application in connection with unelected claims 1-34.

With regard to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-86 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and the examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP § 803, in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits." Applicants respectfully submit that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to

Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.